

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is allowable over the cited references.

The final Office Action dated May 20, 2004, indicated that claims 2-4, 9, 15-16 and 24 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten; claims 1, 10 and 20-22 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1, 10, 21-22 and 26 of U.S. Patent No. 6,488,405 in view of *Nikawa* (U.S. Patent No. 6,066,956); claims 5-6, 11-13 and 18 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1, 10, 21-22 and 26 of U.S. Patent No. 6,488,405 in view of *Nikawa*; claims 7-8, 14, 17 and 23 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1, 10, 21-22 and 26 of U.S. Patent No. 6,488,405 in view of *Nikawa* and further in view of *Channin* (3,934,199); and claim 19 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1, 10, 21-22 and 26 of U.S. Patent No. 6,488,405 in view of *Nikawa* ('956) and further in view of *Kantor et al.* ('408).

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowability for claims 2-4, 9, 15, 16 and 24. Applicant has accordingly amended claims 2, 15 and 16 to include limitations of their respective underlying claims; therefore, claims 2-4, 15 and 16 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant notes that these claims were not rejected and were considered allowable apart from the double patenting rejections. Applicant requests that the objections to these claims be removed.

Applicant has enclosed a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c). Accordingly, Applicant submits that each of the rejections is moot and requests that the rejections be removed.

In view of the above, Applicant withdraws the arguments previously presented in the Office Action Response filed on March 19, 2004, regarding the flawed rationale for combining the cited teachings.

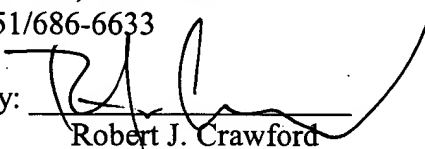
Please charge Deposit Account No. 01-0365 (TT4405) in the amount of \$258.00 for the three additional independent claims. Please charge/credit the same deposit account for any additional fees/overages.

In view of the above discussion, Applicant believes that the rejection has been overcome and the application is in condition for allowance. A favorable response is requested. Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (651) 686-6633.

Respectfully submitted,

CRAWFORD MAUNU PLLC
1270 Northland Drive, Suite 390
St. Paul, MN 55120
651/686-6633

Dated: July 13, 2004

By: 
Robert J. Crawford
Reg. No. 32,122